

LAW, LOVE AND LIFE SEMINAR SERIES

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, in collaboration with SAILS

Law, Love and Life Seminar on

“MEDIA, LAW AND THE DIGITAL MOMENT IN SOUTH ASIA”

A Conversation with **Professor Shohini Ghosh**

Sajjad Zahir Chair, Mass Communications Research Centre

Jamia Milia University, New Delhi

Abstract

The new media environment has transformed all modes and protocols of communication. It has created new opportunities and alliances, while also enabling online threats and abuse. Real world offline consequences of online campaigns have resulted in securing protection of rights, but also enabled the taking away of life and liberty. There has been a demand for more stringent laws to police online speech and ensure individual safety. But can the law alone stop such abuses? In this conversation, Prof. Shohini Ghosh will address the limits, possibilities and challenges of the media in the digital moment in the South Asian context. This discussion will help us to think collectively about how to understand online space, and how we could use it to further our rights and protect ourselves.

Speakers Bios

Shohini Ghosh completed her Masters from AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia and MPS from Department of Communication, Cornell University, USA. She began teaching at the MCRC from 1990. Prior to starting her career as an academic, Ghosh worked as a producer of UGC educational films at the MCRC where she produced, directed and edited educational films and documentaries for the country-wide classroom project.

She is co-founder of Mediastorm Collective, India's first all women documentary production collective which received the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Work among Women Media Professionals in 1992. Ghosh writes extensively on cinema, contemporary media, speech and censorship, documentary and issues of gender and sexuality.

She has been Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Communication, Cornell University, USA (1990-1996); Globalization-McArthur Fellow at the University of Chicago, Fellow at the Gender, Sexuality and Law Research Group of the Law Department at Keele University, UK and Visiting Professor to the Summer Institute on Sexuality, Culture and Society at the International School for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Ghosh's long-standing area of interest is the study of media in relation to sexuality and sexuality rights. Every year from 2002, she has delivered a set of special lectures at the Sexuality and Rights Institute, India and the Sexuality, Gender and Rights Institute. Ghosh has consistently maintained an affiliation with the independent documentary film movement. Her first independent documentary Tales of the Night Fairies (2002) won the Best Film award at Jeevika 2003, the National Livelihood Documentary Competition and travelled to festivals in Australia, USA, UK, Canada, The Netherlands, China, Korea, Mexico, Croatia, South Africa, Thailand, Hong Kong and Brazil. The film made an important intervention in the debate on decriminalization of sex work both in India and outside and continues to be used extensively by academics, activists and sex workers' groups. Ghosh is the author of Fire: A Queer Film Classic published by Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver in 2010 and reprinted by Orient Publishing, Delhi in 2011.. Currently, she is writing about Violence and the Spectral Muslim: Action, Affect and Bombay Cinema at the Turn of the 21st Century.

Date , Time and Venue:

29 January 2018 | 3.00pm | Auditorium, Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK) | Dhaka

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mail@blast.org.bd | www.blast.org.bd | www.facebook.com/BLASTbangladesh

RSVP: Sofia Haseen, Advocacy Officer | E blastevents@blast.org.bd | T +88 01712238187